

EDITORIAL

The Rule of Wal

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a country which overthrew its king and decided to live under The Rule of Wal. The people themselves would make the rules which would govern them and the rules were called Wals. Because the people made the wals there was great attention paid to the rights and freedom of individual citizens and to the common good, and it was considered very important that everyone obey the wals. In this way a great nation was founded.

As time went by the nation prospered and the number of wals increased greatly, and so did the number of reasons for which wals were enacted. A large number of professionals called walyers came into being and it came to pass that they virtually took over The Rule of Wal, although they continued to act in the name of the people. As the walyers increased the numbers of wals and extended their scope, two very important things began to happen.

The first thing that happened was that there came to be so many wals that they could not all be enforced or obeyed at the same time, and everyone from the leader of the country to the plain citizens and even the students in the schools began to choose which wals they would obey and which they would not, and The Rule of Wal itself began to choose which wals it would try to enforce and which it would not. This led to many problems and considerable disorder within The Rule of Wal and the walyers were kept very busy since they had long since brought it about that only they, the walyers, could represent the citizens or The Rule of Wal itself in disputes in the courts of the country.

The second thing that happened was that The Rule of Wal and the walyers began to try to regulate human society and even human nature by enacting wals, and this they could not make work. However, the walyers never quite believed that it would not work, and they kept on enacting more wals which kept on not working. This is what happened when they tried to regulate the

nation's economy by enacting wals, and it happened again when they tried to regulate the people's health, also by enacting wals.

Nobody seemed to give much thought to the reasons why the wals did not work, and nobody stopped to think that the wals and even the way The Rule of Wal was administered might not be appropriate for the very complex and interdependent technologic, social, economic and political system which had developed in the great nation. The fact which many had forgotten was that The Rule of Wal had been rooted in a primitive and quite historic adversary approach to solving problems and disputes which was a method known to have worked well in ancient times in simpler societies with simpler problems which were amenable to quite simplistic solutions. And the truth which nobody seemed to recognize was that the ancient adversary approach was simply too naive and simplistic to meet the needs of a modern human society living in a biologically, socially, economically and politically interdependent world. Actually the very opposite of an adversary approach was what was needed but nobody seemed to understand this.

Unfortunately the great nation which had overthrown its king and accepted The Rule of Wal went into bad times. It was to be many years before very much thought would be given to why the times were bad, either by the walyers who were trying to administer The Rule of Wal or by the people who really wanted to live by it. It was only when they did give thought to it, and after they had rejected the ancient adversary approach and replaced it with another more appropriate to the needs of their very complex and interdependent society, that the friction within their technologic, social, economic and political system began to lessen and another era of great progress came to pass for the great nation which had chosen to live under The Rule of Wal.

And curiously enough it turned out that the physicians of the country were among the very first to see the need for change because the adversary approach of The Rule of Wal had proved unhealthy for the care of the sick and for the health care of the nation as a whole.

—MSMW